

Garden NOTES

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FALL 1997

1997 NHS FALL PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

10 AM - 4 PM

BY DOUGLAS BAYLEY

September always has a special feel. There is something both invigorating and mellow about the cooler nights and dewy mornings. There have been a few hours to clear away the debris of summer. Early blooming perennials have been groomed and perhaps even flushed out with new foliage. This is a chance to evaluate and rethink plantings. September is also a great time for a plant sale.

The NHS Fall Plant Sale is special for several reasons. First, of course, is that it's in the fall, which is a perfect time for planting. In the fall, successes and failures, or possible improvements, are fresh in the mind. It is a wiser gardener in the fall. The intoxicating and

exuberant urge to plant and bloom has matured into something a bit more reflective. People come to the NHS Fall Plant Sale with intelligent and thoughtful questions.

The best news for 1997 is the incredible number of knowledgeable plant people available for advice, ideas and essential plant gossip. Growers are selling their own plants, about which they know a lot. NHS itself has an unequalled depth of expertise within its membership. Professionals and amateurs both have years of practical experience about problem situations, special plants and questions of ongoing maintenance to share with anyone interested. It is an exclusive club limited strictly to

those who love plants.

This year in particular, the Plant Sale Committee has arranged for knowledgeable gardeners to be available at the sale. They will be wandering around, marked with special hats, aprons, flags, name tags and bells ready and willing to apply their knowledge to your situation. If they do not know, they know who will.

The 1997 Fall Plant Sale is for YOU! Bring your questions and garden plans to the 1997 NHS Plant Sale on Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27!

— Douglas Bayley is a landscape designer, immediate past president of the Northwest Horticultural Society, and Curator of the E. B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust. 

A QUICK GUIDE TO ALLIUMS

BY JESSIE ATTRI

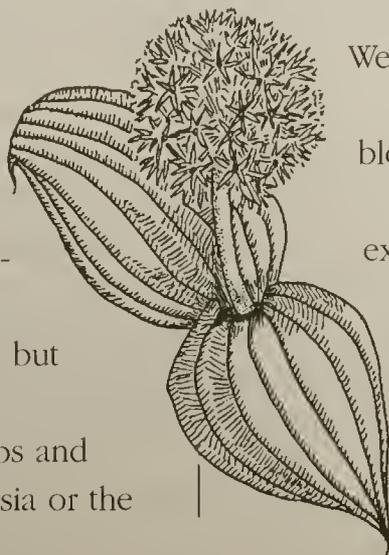
Read this and you'll want to begin an allium collection or extend your existing one.

An exciting selection of alliums will be available at the NHS Fall Plant Sale on September 26 and 27 and at The Arboretum Foundation's Bulb Sale on October 5.

In 1994, on my first walk along the Seine to the flower market of Paris, I fell in love with alliums.

Like Shakespeare's Cleopatra, alliums have infinite variety — maybe 800 kinds! There's a downright academic learning curve here, lasting from five years to a lifetime. Many forms of chives are edible, but others have a worldly culinary history.

There's much to learn about these unusual bulbs and rhizomes, many species of which are from Central Asia or the



West Coast of the United States. Here's an overview:

The five most popular balls of various sizes blooming in May are:

(1) *Allium christophi*. A must-have, 80-flowered explosion!

(2) *A. karataviense*. These purply thick leaves have been known to leap into the arms of buyers at plant sales.

Continued on page 4 ►

MEET THE GROWERS AT THE NHS PLANT SALE!

A & D PEONY & PERENNIAL NURSERY
Snobomish

BARFOD'S HARDY FERNS
Bothell

Torben Barfod will bring **ferns** of all sizes — even **tree ferns**, and wonderful specialty shrubs.

BASSETTI'S CROOKED ARBOR GARDENS
Woodinville
Leanne & Bill Bassetti

BEAUTY & THE BAMBOO
Seattle

Stan Andreasen will bring **bamboos** in all shapes and sizes, from the rare to the popular!

BOTANICA
Seattle
Pamela Harlow

COLVOS CREEK NURSERY
Vashon Island
Mike Lee is bringing a great selection of **natives** and **drought-tolerant plants**, along with *Ravelia victoria* (silk oak shrub), *Gunnera* (large sizes), **manzanita**, and *Eucalyptus*.

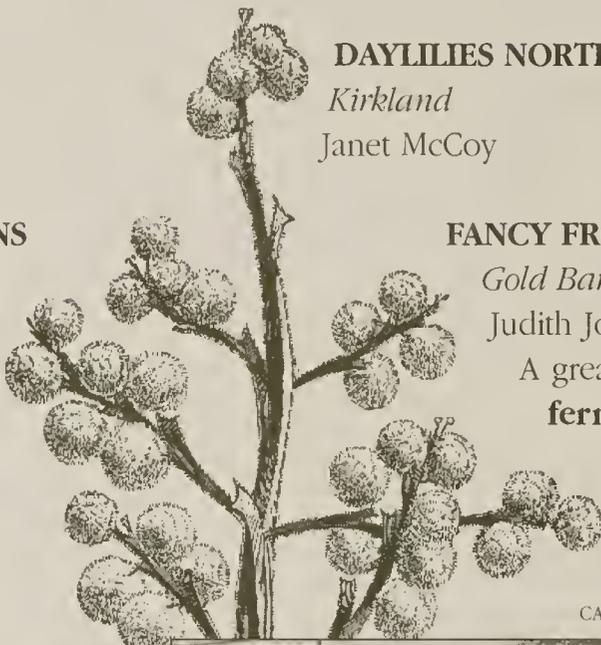
COUNTRY GARDENS
Fall City

THE COUNTRY STORE & GARDENS
Vashon Island

Vy Biel's **hydrangeas** are not to be missed!

DAYLILIES NORTHWEST
Kirkland
Janet McCoy

FANCY FRONDS
Gold Bar
Judith Jones
A great selection of **ferns**.



CAROL ELAND



FOLIAGE GARDENS
Bellevue
Harry & Sue Olsen

GRISWOLD NURSERY
Kirkland
Orine Holm

HERONSWOOD NURSERY, LTD.
Kingston
Featured will be some of Dan Hinkley's plants collected in China and Nepal, including *Acer davidii* which he collected from Yunan Province in China, a beautiful maple with colorful striations along the stems and branches. You'll also find a vigorous climbing *Aconitum episcopale* which has beautiful deeply cut leaves and large violet flowers.

Another climber will be *Holboellia fargesii*, an evergreen vine from Yunan Province which has fragrant lavender flowers in spring. Another gem will be the huge *Astilbe grandis* from Schechwan Province that sports enormous leaves to five feet in length and flowers up to eight feet tall. Look for the very elegant shrub *Decaisnea fargesii* which produces striking marical blue bean pods filled with seeds and slimy ooze. Another selection of

Dan's collected plants will be an unnamed **primula** from Nepal with beautiful nodding, creamy white flowers on an eight-inch stem.

JUNGLE FEVER EXOTICS
Tacoma

KERSTON'S NURSERY
Brier
Kerry Kerston

LOIS'S CHOICE DAHLIAS
Renton
Lois & Ted Hastings

MADRONA NURSERY
Seattle
Ann Bucher

MELROSE NURSERY
Olympia
Lori Eichelser Gangsei has promised **rhodies, azaleas, kalmias**, and some fabulous tropical **Vireya rhododendrons!**

MOLBAK'S GREENHOUSE & NURSERY
Woodinville
Tropicals are "in"— and Molbak's will have a wide assortment you can enjoy indoors all winter. Next spring, move them into the garden.

MORNING GLORY FARMS

Stanwood
Kirk Baker & William Hielscher

MSK RARE PLANT NURSERY

Shoreline
Mareen Kruckeberg

MT. TAHOMA NURSERY

Graham
Rick Lupp

NATIVE ORIGINS NURSERY

Raymond
Mary Ann Spahr

NAYLOR CREEK NURSERY

Chimacum
Jack Hirsch & Gary Lindheimer will have a wonderful selection of choice, superbly grown **hostas**, including the fabulous *Hosta* 'Guacamole' which makes a large open mound of glossy, rounded gold leaves with a dark green margin. *H.* 'Guacamole' is one of the most exciting new hostas to hit the market in years. Another gem they'll have is the aptly named *H.* 'Fried Bananas' which makes a large open mound of gold glossy leaves, that, combined with its highly fragrant lavender flowers, makes a striking specimen. Look for the intriguingly named *H.* 'Fried Green Tomatoes', the rare *H.* 'Maekawa', and *H.* 'Midwest Magic', with round bright gold leaves and a wide dark green edge. *H.* 'Torchlight' makes a stunning two foot wide mound of nearly round dark green leaves with a wide white margin and burgundy red petioles.

PUGET GARDEN RESOURCES

Vashon Island
Peter Ray's offerings will include many

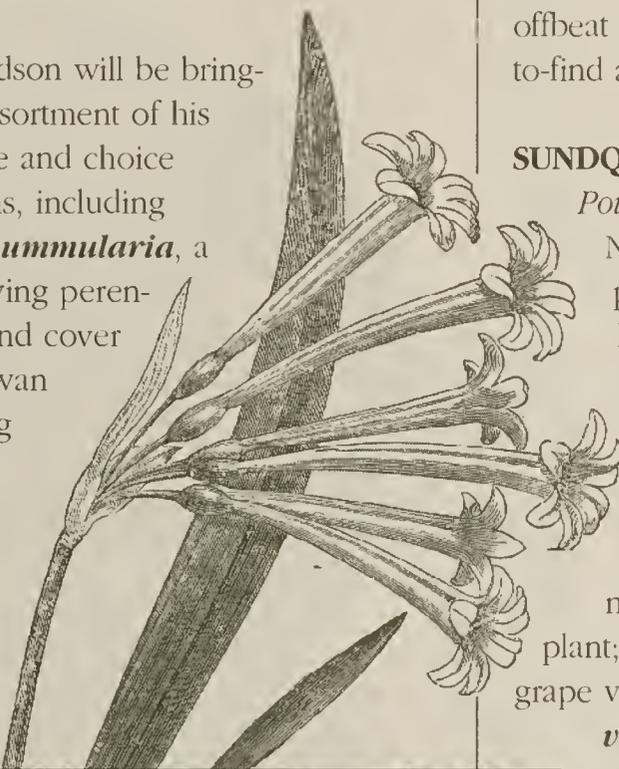
unique forms of *romneya*, *digitalis*, *buddleia*, and *hellebores*.

RAMBLE ON ROSE PERENNIALS

Mt. Vernon
Marta Gorny

REFLECTIVE GARDENS

Poulsbo
Kelly Dodson will be bringing an assortment of his usual rare and choice specimens, including *Pratia nummularia*, a low growing perennial ground cover from Taiwan displaying purplish fruit;



Gentiana ternifolia, a creeping asiatic gentian with large sky blue trumpets; *Calceolaria* 'John Innes', a low growing perennial with yellow Lady Slipper-like pouches with red spots (Kelly says the shape of the flower reminds him of Jay Leno's chin); *Hypericum henryi*, a four-foot shrubby hypericum from Roy

Lancaster, displaying yellow flowers; and *Cotoneaster integrifolius*, a low, arching cotoneaster with a dark green glossy leaf.

SCHUGMANN'S NURSERY

Deming
Chris & Joseph Schugmann will have offbeat perennials, small trees and hard-to-find alpine shrubs.

SUNDQUIST NURSERY

Poulsbo
Nils Sundquist will offer a sampling of his large collection of hardy **fuchsias**, some *Clerodendrum trichotomum* 'Fargesii', a shrub which produces extremely showy flowers commonly known as the harlequin glory bower, a name which aptly describes the plant; some of the striking purple leaf grape vine he grows so well (*Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea'); a selection of ornamental grasses, including one of the best carexes around, the evergreen (or ever-orange) *Carex testacea*; several selections of the fall-blooming *Schizostylis coccinea*, including *S.* 'Oregon Sunset' and *S.* 'Viscountess Byng'; some large sized *Lavatera thuringiaca* 'Barnsley'; and some of the large leafed hydrangeas such as *H. aspera* 'Macrophylla'.

A THOUSAND ALLIUMS

Seattle
Read Jessie Attri's article on page 1 for ideas!

WOODSIDE GARDENS

Chimacum
Pamela West specializes in perennials and antique plants.

A QUICK GUIDE TO ALLIUMS

continued from page 1

(3) *Allium sicutum*. Bells of green, purple and white move down, then up again.

(4) *A. 'Mt. Everest'*. A five-foot stalwart stem sports a snowy baseball on top.

(5) *A. 'Purple Sensation'*. Vibrant red-purple.

I like the fuzzy, crewcut filaments of *Allium elatum* and the flamboyant Dutch hybrids: blue-lilac *A. 'Gladiator'*, royal purple *A. 'Lucy Ball'*, subtle amethyst *A. 'Rien Poortvliet'*, and purple *A. 'Mars'*, *A. schuberti* will have you standing by to monitor its incredible arrested pink fireworks.

Only a hair less spectacular are all the rest: *Allium aflatunense*, *A. multibulbosum*, *A. stipitatum*, *A. rosenbachianum*...the list goes on!

On a smaller scale are the May flowering *Allium azureum* (blue), *A. neapolitanum-cowanii* (white), *A. moly* (yellow), *A. oreophilum* (carmine pink), *A. triquetrum* and *A. zebdanense* (white). I suggest a pot or marked place for these lest they be lost in weeding.

Think June and you have *Allium atropurpureum* (deep purple golf balls), *A. giganteum* (lilac), and *A. unifolium* (a California true pink).

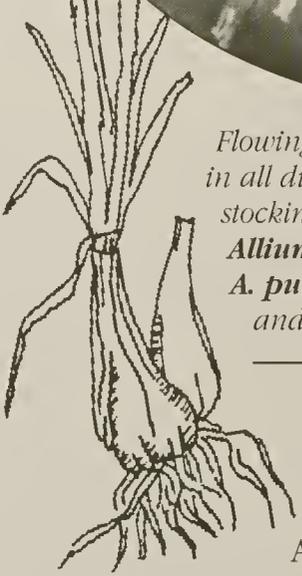
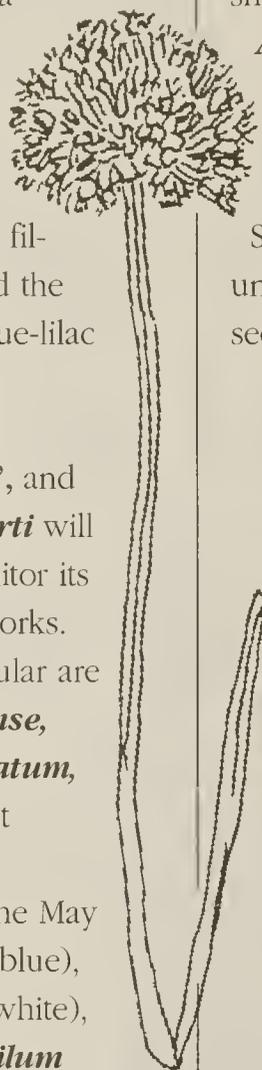
For long-lasting foliage, plant these at the front of the border: *Allium cernuum*, the American nodding onion (especially in the deeper pinks and purples), *A. senescens* (lilac balls), and *A. nutans* (gentle pinks) — all with bloom time into August! Cascading July-August up-down explosions from stocking caps are the family of yellow *A. flavum*, plus pinky-lilac or white *A. pulchellum*. Then there are the drumsticks of

A. sphaerocephalon to be scattered about.

For your rock garden try the true blue of *Allium sikkimense* if you have shade and moisture, or the curly-leaved *A. senescens ssp. glaucum* for your dry area or border.

Going beyond these can be confusing, but well worth the effort.

Sources include unreliable seed



Flowering in all directions from the stocking cap bud are *Allium flavum* and *A. pulchellum* in July and August.

exchanges plus European and American bulb and seed nurseries.

Dilys Davies has written an excellent, non technical reference, *Alliums: The Ornamental Onion*, (Timber Press, 1992), which is available at the Miller Horticultural Library.

— Jessie Attri owns and operates *A Thousand Alliums* nursery in West Seattle, where golfballs, baseballs, softball and volleyballs arise among her less antic perennials. 🌱

ALLIUMS: SO MANY USES! LET ME COUNT THE WAYS...

Alliums are comfortable in many settings! Many are drought-tolerant in the garden, but others may benefit from the moisture and shade of the Pacific Northwest. Experiment! You may get more bloom in sun. Read about the allium's origins and imagine those conditions.

If you have alliums, try using them in a variety of ways. They can stand alone or peep out like lollipops amidst other plants in the border. Small ones can fit into a dry or damp rockery. Pots add highlights here and there, especially on decks and patios.

Chives, *A. cernuum* and more — as well as the big May "ball" alliums — make unusual, long-lasting bouquets alone or with other flowers. Alliums can be dried with color in silica gel or in a vase, both long enduring.

Alliums have both culinary and floral uses. Chives, of course, are chives. A bit stronger is *A. tuberosum*. Also eaten are *A. akaka* (Iran), *A. ampeloprasum* (southern Europe), *A. angulosum* and *A. obliquum* (Siberia), *A. canadense* (Native American), *A. cernuum* (American prairie), *A. chinense*, *A. tuberosum*, *A. fistulosum* (China and Japan) *A. stellatum* (Native America and settlers) and *A. ursinum* (Europe). Taste them! An allium tasting party? That's what William T. Stearn did for potential veggies during World War II in England.

— Jessie Attri

TROPICALS: THE HOTTEST TREND IN GARDEN DESIGN

Tropicals will take center stage on September 19 and 20, as NHS presents an evening lecture with Tom Hobbs and Jim Martin, followed by an all-day tour of four of the Puget Sound area's most exotic tropical gardens.

Reservations are required and spaces will fill up fast, so mail your check or call the NHS office with your credit card number today!

LECTURE

Friday, Sept. 19

7 p.m. reception, 7:30 lecture

Center for Urban Horticulture

*\$5 for NHS members, students, seniors;
\$10 for non-members*

"BIG & BOLD: FUN WITH TROPICAL PLANTS FOR TEMPERATE CLIMES"

Tom Hobbs

Laugh and learn as Canadian gardening personality Tom Hobbs talks tropicals — and blows up the myth that they're difficult to grow in the maritime Pacific Northwest. Using inexpensive "tropicals" often found in the houseplant section of stores such as Home Depot, Hobbs will show how to achieve bold drama and unexpected surprises. "They're happy there. In fact, they go berserk — and they're spectacular."

Tom Hobbs is well known in horticultural circles as a witty and unusually creative florist and garden-item retailer. Hobbs hosts a weekly TV feature on garden design and for a hobby raises rare orchids.

"TROPICALS: UNEXPECTED DELIGHTS OF TEXTURE, COLOR AND SHAPE"

Jim Martin

In the long, hot, humid summers of South Carolina, tropicals thrive in the extraordinary

walled garden of the Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden. Director Jim

Martin will describe this bigger-than-a-football-field

Southern garden that was designed formally with bricks and

balustrades, but is planted informally — with surprising combinations of plants that never expected to grow outside of a pot!

Jim Martin is a popular garden designer, lecturer and writer. For over a decade, he has observed traditional Southern gardeners wake up to his innovative — and often shocking — combinations of tropical plants that had typically been confined to pots and parlors.

TOM'S TROPICAL TOUR

Saturday, Sept. 20

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

\$50 members/\$85 non-members

Spend the day with charming, witty and very knowledgeable

Tom Hobbs touring four fabulous tropical theme gardens. Relax with continental breakfast at the exotic Brotman Garden in Medina, then travel by coach to the lush Caldwell Garden in Seward Park. Savor gourmet box lunches on the ferry to Bainbridge Island to view the unique water sculptures at the

Little & Lewis Studio and Garden, and the spectacular Cochran Garden and Nursery.



LIBRARY RESOURCES

BY MARTY WINGATE

TROPICAL GARDENING

The American Garden Guides
Pantheon Books, New York, 1996

“The desire to grow what one can’t, or at least shouldn’t given climatic restraints of northern areas, is surely part of the gardener’s nature,” writes Portland’s Sean Hogan in this latest in the American Garden Guides. As with their previous topics (Rose Gardening, 1995; Perennial Gardening, 1994), the editors have used experts in the field to develop a readable and attractive book for gardeners who want to understand what, where, and how before taking the plunge headlong into the world of brugmansia and jacaranda. The book is divided up into sections on plant selection (with beautifully clear color photos), garden design, techniques, and — important for the Pacific Northwest — chock-full of information from pests and diseases to the history of bananas to the story of orchid hunters. Especially delightful is a short piece from



Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’ evocative book on south Florida, *Cross Creek*. With no intention of plant-

ing any bird of paradise myself, I still found *Tropical Gardening* an interesting and practical guide.

GARDENING WITH FOLIAGE PLANTS: LEAF, BARK AND BERRY

Ethne Clarke
Abbeville Press, New York, 1997

Lovely photographs are always inspiration to a gardener, regardless of accompanying text. In Clarke’s newest book, an oversize coffee table variety, photos take center stage as the emphasis is shifted away from flower to other attributes of plants. In the first part of the book, foliage in all its many colors,

shapes, and sizes is presented in designs meant to promote interesting gardens before, after and instead of bloom. Berries and bark complete the look at alternatives. Next, different garden designs are described and presented in watercolor renderings: bog gardens, container gardens, and courtyard gardens among them. The plant lists are by attributes and plant type, not names, so that within the Yellow, Orange, Red, and Purple sections, *Humulus lupulus* ‘Aureus’ is under annuals and perennials. All cultivars are oddly written within double quotes. Sources and Gardens to Visit round out the book. Beginning gardeners will find useful information in the text as the elements of designing with foliage are explained, while others will spend time looking longingly at each photo and wondering how to fit just one more tree in an already full landscape.

— Marty Wingate is a garden columnist in the *Eastside Journal* and *Madison Park Times* who works at the Elisabeth C. Miller library.

JUDITH TANKARD TO KEYNOTE MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURE

“Walking in the Bootsteps of Gertrude Jekyll”

October 2, 7 p.m. Dessert reception will follow. Center for Urban Horticulture.

Garden historian and author Judith Tankard will interest and entertain the audience at the third annual Elisabeth and Pendleton Miller Memorial Lecture. She will share her opinions and anecdotes on the vast influence Gertrude Jekyll had on Beatrix Ferand and Ellen Shipman, the two most prominent American landscape architects in the early part of the 20th century. During her prolific career, Shipman designed more than 600 gardens; Ferand’s major work was designing the gardens of Dunbarton Oaks.

Judith Tankard teaches British garden history at Radcliffe

College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She co-authored “Gertrude Jekyll : A Vision of Garden and Wood” (1988), and most recently, “Gertrude Jekyll at Munstead Wood (1997), and “The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman.”

The Elisabeth and Pendleton Miller Memorial Lecture is co-sponsored by the Center for Urban Horticulture, the Elisabeth Miller Horticultural Trust, the Northwest Horticultural Society and the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington.

Free, but reservations are required; please call 206-860-5055.

Tropicals in the Northwest garden? Absolutely!

*Exotic tropical trumpets of *Brugmansia* and *Datura* blossoms are seen more frequently now in gardens with the tropical look and on patios in containers placed among the more commonly-grown potted plants.*

It's not too early to start planning your own tropical look for next year.

*Robert Lee Riffle, author of **The Tropical Look** (Timber Press, 1998), has generously granted NHS permission to reprint the following information as it will appear in his book.*



ROBERT L. RIFFLE

ANGEL'S TRUMPETS

BY ROBERT LEE RIFFLE

BRUGMANSIA (brug-MAN-zee-a)

Solanaceae: The Petunia, Potato, Tomato Family

ANGEL'S TRUMPET

Large spreading, large-leaved shrubs/small trees; giant pendent trumpet-like flowers

Zone 9b as returning perennials, 10 and 11 as year-round subjects

Sun to part shade

Water lovers

Humusy, moist well drained soil

Propagation is by seed and/or cuttings

A genus of only 5 species of soft-wooded shrubs and trees native to the South American Andean region, with usually large leaves and always more or less pendulous flowers which are fragrant to a lesser or greater degree. Until fairly recently, these plants were included by taxonomists in the genus *Datura* whose flowers are similar in general shape and are closely allied to those of *Brugmansia*. Without going into technical details which are not of much interest to the gardener, the two genera may be most easily distinguished by the fact that all *Brugmansia* have pendent, drooping flowers—at least to some extent—while those of *Datura* are held erect or at right angles to the stems; and *Brugmansia* produce elongated smooth pods while the fruit of *Datura* are glo-

bose and covered in spinelike protrusions. A similarity to the flowers of both genera are the 5-pointed corollas, the points recurved to at least some extent in most *Brugmansia* species. In addition, all *Brugmansia* make much larger plants than do those in the genus *Datura*—some *Brugmansia* grow to 30 feet or more in height; and *Datura* species seldom make wood—indeed, most *Datura* species are annuals—whereas soft wood is a universal occurrence with the *Brugmansia* genus provided the plants grow to maturity.

All *Brugmansia* species are indigenous to elevated areas in South America that are of moderate to great altitude. Several of the largest growing species (*B. arborea*, *B. aurea*, and *B. sanguinea*) are indigenous to these high mountain regions and do not fare well in warm and humid areas and are not therefore usually in cultivation in the southeastern U.S. and similar climates. These cold country species do figure, however, in the parentage of many of the forms now available everywhere.

These mountainous habitats are quite moist year-round and yet are, of course, mostly of sloping ground. These facts are two of the clues to successful cultivation of *Brugmansia*: moisture and good soil drainage. None of the species, hybrids or cultivars is hardy to cold but most will come back from the roots in zone 9b and sometimes in zone 9a. Temperatures of 30°F. will damage the foliage; temperatures of 25°F. or lower will usually freeze the plants to the ground; temperatures below 20°F. are usually fatal but they will sometimes spring back with the return of warm weather. Whether the plants return from a freeze depends on several factors, not the least important of which is the heritage of the plant—the hybrids are, in general, more tender—and the age of the plant; *Brugmansia* that are repeatedly cut to the ground by cold in successive winters seem to lose strength (one might almost say “the will to live”) and within a relatively few years will probably die, even if their roots never freeze. **All parts of these plants are poisonous, including the flowers and seeds.**

There are a number of hybrids and cultivars now whose parentage is uncertain but most of them probably involve the species *B. versicolor*. The taxonomy of these plants is still in flux, and what follows is doubtless subject to revision—as far as names go—hopefully in the near future.

Brugmansia arborea (ahr-BOR-ee-a) (Syn. *Datura arborea*, *Datura cornigera*) is indigenous to the high Andes region and is not in cultivation in the southeastern U.S.—indeed, it seems to be rarely cultivated anywhere within the U.S.; plants so labeled here are usually *B. x candida*, which see. It is a small tree to only 12 feet or so in height with velvety pubescent and strongly ribbed ovate usually toothed leaves about 6 inches long. The fragrant white pendent flowers have recurved pointed lobes and are small for the genus, usually no more than 6 inches long with green veins and a large green calyx.

Brugmansia aurea (OW-ree-a or AW-ree-a) (Syn. *Datura affinis*, *Datura aurea*, *Datura pittieri*) is another species from the high elevations in the eastern Andes regions and, as far as I can determine, is not in cultivation in the hot and humid southeastern U.S. and similar climes and seems rarely cultivated outside its native haunts except under glass. This is a strikingly handsome tree form that can attain 20 or 30 feet in height with large strong ribbed foot-long, linear-cordate and tapering dark green leaves which are usually toothed on the margins on young plants but entire on older ones. The beautiful pendulous flowers are usually a deep golden yellow but may also be almost white. They are 10 inches or more long and trumpet shaped with spreading corolla lobes which terminate in long recurved tails; the blossoms are quite fragrant.

Brugmansia x candida (kan-DEED-a) (Syn. *Datura candida*, *Datura x candida*) is a hybrid of *B. aurea*, a white or yellow-flowered species from high elevations in Ecuador and *Datura*, a white/peach-colored species from the lower Andean regions of Ecuador. It grows fast to 12 or 15 feet in height with foot-long, dull green ovate to elliptic leaves that are usually toothed on the margins. The flowers are a foot or more long, pure white, often tinged with pink or yellow and are intensely, almost overpoweringly fragrant. The plant blooms all year in cycles of about 6 weeks but most heavily in summer and autumn. There is a pure white double-flowered cultivar, a “trumpet within a trumpet”, and a gorgeous golden-yellow-flowered form.

Brugmansia x insignis (in-SIG-nis) is a second generation hybrid between *B. suaveolens*, a white-flowered species from southeastern Brazil and *Datura*. It has foot-long narrowly ovate leaves with dentate (toothed) margins. The immense flowers are pink, sometimes almost red, or white or combinations thereof and are a foot or more long with a delicate and delicious fragrance. They are more bell shaped (campanulate) than trumpet shaped and have usually 6 recurved and pointed lobes. The plant grows to at least 12 feet in height. It is a year-round bloomer but most heavily so in fall, winter and spring.

Brugmansia sanguinea (san-GWIN-ee-a) (Syn. *Datura rosei*, *Datura sanguinea*) is a tree type with red and yellow flowers, native to great elevations in the Andes, unable to cope with the heat of the Gulf Coast, the southeastern U.S. and similar climates and is not usually grown nor available in those areas. The southeastern U.S.'s loss is the gain of the cooler tropical and subtropical areas like coastal California, the Riviera, northern New Zealand, southeastern Australia, etc., for the RED ANGEL'S TRUMPET is a magnificent flowering tree which can attain a height of 30 or more feet although it is often more shrublike. The velvety bright green

foot-long leaves are long-ovate, deep-ribbed, acuminate (tapering to a point) and as much as a foot long. The narrowly trumpet-shaped and pendent flowers are also a foot long and their colors are remarkable: as they emerge from the large and fleshy calyx they are light yellow; the yellow changes to pink by the middle of the tube and the pink changes to scarlet at the corolla lobes which are abruptly long pointed, the points recurving toward the calyx. There are varieties and cultivars that are pure red and pure yellow.

Brugmansia suaveolens (swahv-ee-O-lenz) (Syn. *Datura gardneri*, *Datura suaveolens*) is native to the low mountains of southeastern Brazil. It grows to at least 12 feet in height, often more, and has ovate to elliptic dark green leaves to a foot long and usually 6 to 8 inches wide. The fragrant flowers are about a foot long, the points of the corolla only slightly recurved and the flowers themselves often only half-pendulous, giving the impression of large tubular white stars. There are yellow and pink forms.

Brugmansia versicolor (VUR-si-kul-or) (Syn. *Datura mollis*, *Datura versicolor*) grows to 15 feet or more in height with foot-long, dark bluish green, heavily-veined elliptic to lanceolate leaves. The flowers are perhaps the most beautiful of all the species: 18 inches to almost 2 feet long, with long, recurved points to the corolla. They open almost pure white with a delicate blush of pink or apricot and soon change to almost pure pink or orange-pink. There is also a beautiful pure white cultivar.

GROWING A BRUGMANSIA FROM A STEM CUTTING

BY DIANE S. LAIRD

*Brugmansias can be started from cuttings taken during autumn,
grown indoors during the winter and placed outdoors when night temperatures stay above 50 degrees.*

*The resulting plants frequently bloom earlier in the summer
than the plants successfully wintered over and which "come back from the roots."*

Take cuttings from a Brugmansia to start your own plant:

1. Select a woody part of the stem rather than the soft tip growth; bend the wood and use the part of the stem below the point where it snaps and breaks like a pencil — if it bends, it's too soft and has a good chance of rotting before rooting.
2. The wood of the stem should be green rather than brown, and the most successful cuttings begin with white bumps on the stem. From these white bumps will emerge roots.
3. Each cutting should have a leaf node; remove the leaves.
4. Cuttings are usually stem pieces about 8 inches long.

They may be put in water to root, put in wet seed-starting mix in a 4-inch pot or wrapped in a thick paper towel and left in a sealed ziplock bag until the roots begin to emerge from the stem and then potted up.

5. If you have friends in another part of the country who can share Brug cuttings with you, they can simply mail the stems wrapped in a damp paper towel and plastic. Brug stems will still root even if they've been cut a week or so, as long as the wood hasn't begun to shrivel and dry.

— Diane S. Laird has helped (via CompuServe) dozens of tropical plant maniacs throughout the country root Brugmansia cuttings. She may be reached at 74757.3244@compuserve.com.

NAME CHANGES

Datura affinis. See *Brugmansia aurea.*

Datura arborea. See *Brugmansia arborea.*

Datura aurea. See *Brugmansia aurea.*

Datura candida. See *Brugmansia X candida.*

Datura X candida. See *Brugmansia X candida.*

Datura chlorantha. See *Datura metel.*

Datura cornigera. See *Brugmansia arborea.*

Datura cornucopia. See *Datura metel.*

Datura fastuosa. See *Datura metel.*

Datura gardneri. See *Brugmansia suaveolens.*

Datura guayaquilensis. See *Datura inoxia.*

Datura humilis. See *Datura metel.*

Datura inermis. See *Datura stramonium.*

Datura laevis. See *Datura stramonium.*

Datura meteloides. See *Datura inoxia.*

Datura mollis. See *Brugmansia versicolor.*

Datura pittieri. See *Brugmansia aurea.*

Datura rosei. See *Brugmansia sanguinea.*

Datura sanguinea. See *Brugmansia sanguinea.*

Datura suaveolens. See *Brugmansia suaveolens.*

Datura versicolor. See *Brugmansia versicolor.*

DATURA (da-TOOR-a)

Solanaceae: The Petunia, Potato, Tomato Family
JIMSON WEED; DEVIL'S TRUMPET; THORN APPLE;
ANGEL'S TRUMPETS

Medium-sized herbaceous shrubs; large lvs, white and/or purple trumpet-shaped flrs

Treat as annuals—most of the species are annuals; the perennial species are short-lived

Sun

Average but regular amounts of moisture

Sandy well drained soil

Propagation is by seed

A small genus of 8 species closely allied to the genus *Brugmansia*; for differences between these two genera see the "Brugmansia" entry. Unlike the genus *Brugmansia*, *Datura* produce rounded fruits that are covered in spinelike protrusions. As can be seen from the species listing below the taxonomic status of the genus has been and still is in a state of flux and confusion. Unlike *Brugmansia* species these plants are indigenous to more than one continent; some have been cultivated for so long that their origins are obscured and some taxonomists think the genus is entirely American. Most of the forms now in cultivation are either *Datura metel*, *Datura innoxia* or *Datura stramonium* or derivations therefrom. **All parts of these plants are poisonous—some are deadly.** These are bold and tropical looking subjects with large and attractive leaves and beautiful flowers similar to those in the genus *Brugmansia*. They grow fast, have few if any pests, thrive on average or even poor soil, are just short of drought tolerant and are valuable additions to the repertory of the tropical garden.

Datura innoxia (i-NOX-ee-a) (*Datura guayaquilensis*) is indigenous to the warmest parts of the southwestern U.S. down through Mexico and into Central America. The species itself is now exceedingly rare in cultivation but the subspecies ***Datura innoxia ssp. innoxia*** (Syn. *Datura meteloides*) is more common. It grows to 3 feet or more and is a spreading and mostly herbaceous plant with a strong odor to the leaves which are ovate in outline, 10-inches long, dark green, covered with tiny shaggy hairs and usually have scalloped margins. The plant blooms almost throughout its life with flowers that are held erect or at right angles to the stem and grow from the leaf axils; they are 6-inch long tubular white (rarely pinkish) beautifully fragrant trumpets which flare at the ends into a spreading disk with 5 large recurved points (tails) alternating with 5 smaller points. The subspecies ***Datura innoxia quinquecupida*** (kwin-kwee-KUSP-i-da) (Syn. *Datura wrightii*) is the most widely grown form. It is a more spreading plant with leaves that are strongly veined and finely pubescent rather than shaggy. It also has slightly larger flowers which have only 5 points to the corolla. It is a beautiful plant in flower.

Datura metel (meh-TEL) (Syn. *Datura chlorantha*, *Datura fastuosa*, *Datura huinilis*) has been naturalized in all the warm areas of the world but is thought by most researchers to have originated in China. It is similar to *D. innoxia* and its varieties but is usually a larger plant with purple stems and larger flowers. The blossoms are white but there are cultivars with yellow and purple flowers as well as a double flowered form often listed as "*Datura cornucopia*."

Datura stramonium (stra-MO-nee-um) (Syn. *Datura laevis*) is native to the southern and southwestern U.S. and Mexico. This is the Jimson Weed. It is similar to the preceding species except that the leaves are not hairy; they do, however, smell bad when bruised. The white fragrant flowers are also somewhat smaller. There are double-flowered cultivars as well as a purple form.

Copyright 1997 Robert Lee Riffle

Robert Lee Riffle lives and grows tropical plants in Houston, Texas. This article is an excerpt from his book *THE TROPICAL LOOK* to be published by Timber Press in early 1998. (640 pages, 450 color photographs.) 



HOW 20-20-20 FERTILIZERS CREATE A MAGNESIUM DEFICIENCY

BY HENRY DONSELMAN, P.H.D.

Magnesium (Mg) is an integral part of the chlorophyll molecule (the green stuff in plants). It is so important in plants that if it is deficient, the plant will take it out of the older leaves and move it to the new leaves to keep the plant alive. This is the reason that Mg deficiencies are seen in the older leaves. It shows up as premature yellowing or senescence (death) of the older leaves or interveinal chlorosis in the older leaves. In palms the symptom is striking — the outer parts of the leaflets turn yellow while the midrib (center) stays green.

Magnesium is a macronutrient — that is it is used by plants in large quantities. For trees or large palms this would be pounds/year. I often call it the forgotten nutrient because it is not a part of the 3 numbers on a fertilizer bag (N, P, K), and it is not a part of the micronutrients. A good fertilizer should be 1-2% Magnesium — but usually the companies leave it out. In a few states it is the fourth number on the bag (like 12-12-12-2 — N, P, K, Mg).

Now, high phosphorus (the second number, P) creates a nutritional imbalance that makes the magnesium unavailable to plants. That is why I don't recommend some of the highly-advertised foliar spray fertilizers. High P fertilizers are often called "bloom fertilizers" or "root stimulating fertilizers"; but, unfortunately, this is absolute nonsense. It is based on botanical information that P is necessary for new growth in roots, or for flowering. Although the information is botanically correct (that phosphorus is important to root development and flowering) it goes too far when it assumes that high P fertilizers will stimulate new

roots or flowers. Unfortunately this is just not true! When I went to college a few years back they taught us to amend all our potting soils with superphosphorus so the roots would be stimulated. Now we know that that is just plain wrong!

In some research that Dr. Tim Broschat and I did at the University of Florida, we looked at the interaction of P and Mg (phosphorus and magnesium). It seems that the higher the P levels, the less Mg the plant could take up. So if you used a "balanced" 12-12-12 fertilizer on a Date Palm (for example), the palms developed Mg deficiency, because the P rate was way too high!

I am not a proponent of specialized fertilizers for all plants; i.e., rose, palm, gardenia, tomato, etc. In fact, I use one fertilizer for all my plants in my yard. It is a 3:1:3 ratio, like a 12-4-12. High in

N, low in P, high in K. If I had alkaline soil (over pH 7) I would look for the same ratio but with the N (nitrogen) coming from an Ammoniacal source such as ammonium sulfate. Ammoniacal fertilizers lower soil pH, make it more acid (this sounds screwy, but trust me). If I had a normal soil of pH 7 or below, I would look for the nitrogen to be in the form of a nitrate (or maybe from urea). My grass is green, my tomatoes productive, my palms are happy, my gardenias are green and flowering, and they all get the same fertilizer. I always use a slow-release fertilizer, resin coated, 12-4-12.

—Dr. Henry Donselman is recognized as one of the leading palm authorities in the world and has been instrumental in breeding many of the popular tissue cultured indoor plants that are available today. 🌿

RENEE HILL: NHS VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

BY MARJORIE BAIRD

Former NHS board member Renee G. Hill passed away on June 23rd. NHS and the local horticultural community will greatly miss her cheerful and willing work. Renee was a fixture at all the plant sales: the Rhododendron Species Foundation's, Seattle Rhododendron Society's, Children's Hospital's and our own NHS Fall Plant Sale.

Renee worked unfailingly each year on the NHS Seed Exchange. She collected newspaper publicity clippings since the birth of NHS for a future "Memory" book.

All who knew Renee will remember her with much admiration and affection. 🌿



NHS FALL ACTIVITIES FOR EVERY GARDENER

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

"Designing the Most Beautiful American Vegetable Gardens"

Mary Dorra

7 PM reception, 7:30 lecture

\$5 for NHS and Seattle Garden Club

members, students and seniors;

\$10 for non-members

A longtime and very active member of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara, Dorra has lectured extensively throughout the U.S. and written garden articles for *House & Garden*, *House Beautiful*, and *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*. Living proof that great gardeners are often great cooks, Dorra's articles for *Gourmet* inspired her first book, *Beautiful American Vegetable Gardens*.

Ms. Dorra's lecture is co-sponsored with the Seattle Garden Club.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8,

9 A.M. — 1 P.M.

Travel Symposium

\$20 for NHS members,

students and seniors; \$25

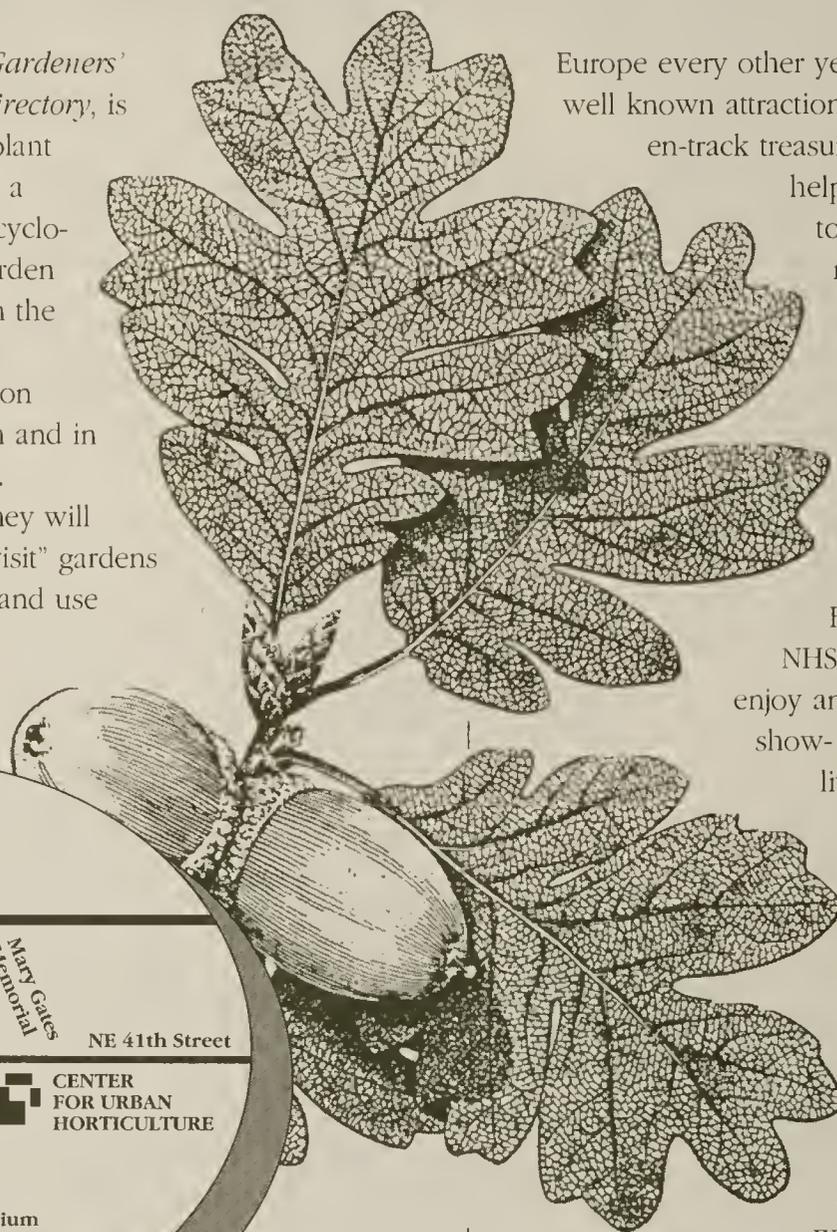
for non-members

◆ *Garden Photography.*

Award winning photographer Art Dome has taken more than 15,000 photos of gardens, plants and flowers around the world. His work has appeared in numerous garden magazines and journals. Dome will share his secrets, from technique to equipment, and analyze photos to see what make them sizzle with postcard perfection — or pale by comparison!

◆ *Surfing the Internet to Research Gardens and Garden Tours.* NHS President Diane Laird has three passions: computers, gardening and the Internet. She has cyber-visited gardens and gardeners throughout the world and manages two gardening sites on CompuServe. Stephanie Feeney, editor and publisher of the internationally acclaimed

Northwest Gardeners' Resource Directory, is a certified plant maniac and a walking encyclopedia of garden resources in the Pacific Northwest, on Planet Earth and in Cyberspace. Together, they will help you "visit" gardens worldwide and use



Europe every other year, visiting both well known attractions and off-the-beat-en-track treasures. Buckles will help you find the right tour and get the most out of it.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Armchair Garden Tours

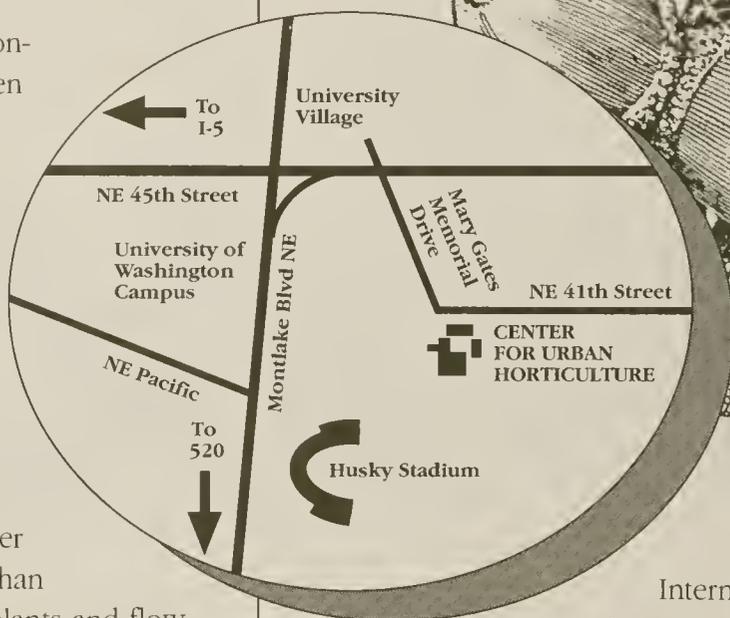
3 p.m. tea,

3:30 lecture

Free.

NHS members will enjoy an afternoon of show-and-tell and re-live your glorious summer gardening experiences. Those sunny slides of your favorite plants and gardens will bring back warm memories in the dead of winter. Bring 10

slides — and a story to tell — for this "open projector" event. Call the NHS office to reserve a place on the program.



the Internet to plan a "real" trip.

◆ *The Ins and Outs of Importing Plants.*

Horticulturist Scott Vergara could open a travel agency for plants! Experienced in bringing all sorts of plant material into the U.S., he will share his experience (and horror stories) as he demystifies permits, customs, and the airport's sniffer dog. The owner of Botanical Resources in Port Orchard, Vergara has worked in horticulture since age seven.

◆ *Tours and resources for the Garden Visitor.*

In her element at Seattle's Flora & Fauna book store, Sue Buckles was a gardener at Children's Hospital for 19 years. She conducts informal tours to Great Britain and

◆ OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19TH, 3:00 PM — 6:00 PM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20TH, 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM

Rhododendron Species Foundation Plant Sale

Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters, 2525 S. 336th St., Federal Way 253-838-4646

Free admission to the garden!

Lectures will be held at the Center for Urban Horticulture, NHS Hall, 3501 N.E. 45th St., Seattle 98105.

For more information, call 206-527-1794

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28, 9 AM — 4 PM
Plant Amnesty Plant Sale
 Center for Urban Horticulture

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30, 7:30 — 9 P.M.
Bulbs for Twelve Months of the Year
 Graham Visitors Center
 2300 Arboretum Drive East
 \$7 Arboretum Foundation members;
 \$8 non-members
 Richard Hartlage, curator of the E.C. Miller Botanical Garden will smash the stereotype that bulbs bloom only in the spring. Learn how to use bulbs year round, tucked in surprising places.

SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 11 A.M. — 5 P.M.
Arboretum Fall Bulb Sale
 Graham Visitors Center
 2300 Arboretum Drive East
 206-325-4510
 Plan a dazzling spring garden from this wide selection of unusual plants and bulbs, many of which cannot be found anywhere else.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 9AM — 12:30 PM
Focus on Creating Fall Interest in the Garden
 Center for Urban Horticulture
 \$25. Pre-registration is required.
 206-685-8033.
 For those hoping to improve their existing gardens. Bring your problems and challenges: Roxanne Hamilton will address participants' specific design solutions.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 9 AM — 4 PM
Designing with Perennials
 Center for Urban Horticulture
 \$60, including lunch.
 Pre-registration required.
 Make the most of your garden space, learn to apply color theory to garden design, and create moods to enhance the personality of your garden. Design experts Phillip Watson, Richard Hartlage, Charles Price and Glenn Withey will inspire and excite your gardening genes!

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!

*This holiday season, give the gift of gardening!
 Tuck an NHS gift membership into a poinsettia for
 a special gift to the gardeners on your list.
 They'll thank you for:*

- Great lectures by plant experts from around the world
 - Pre-sale shopping at plant sales
 - Discounts on all lectures and garden tours
 - The NHS seed exchange
- *Garden Notes*, a newsletter filled with ideas, tips and features

Yes, Santa, I want to give an NHS membership to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home telephone (_____) _____

This gift membership is from

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home telephone (_____) _____

Sign the gift card: _____

Send the gift card to me gift recipient

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Memberships can include a discount subscription to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. Please check the appropriate box.

	with PH	without PH
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	
ACTIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
NURSERY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20

Check MasterCard Visa

Please make check payable to NHS

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____

Signature _____

Thank you! Your dues, less the cost of your subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*, are tax deductible.

SEASONINGS

BY TED MARSTON

Maybe it was my visit to St. Cloud, MN, last summer where I saw 5,000 coleus as the main feature in a summer garden. Or was it the visit to the garden where Ben Hammontree has wrought wondrous things with plants which aren't natives here? Or was it the visit to the late Roberto Burle Marx's fazenda outside of Rio de Janeiro in March (he who became famous for his landscape tapestries with ribbons of tropical foliage)?

Maybe it was the promise of a special canna from Richard Hartlage. Or the enticing mail order catalogs. Or knowing what treasures for the outdoor summer garden are hiding in the house plant department at Molbak's.

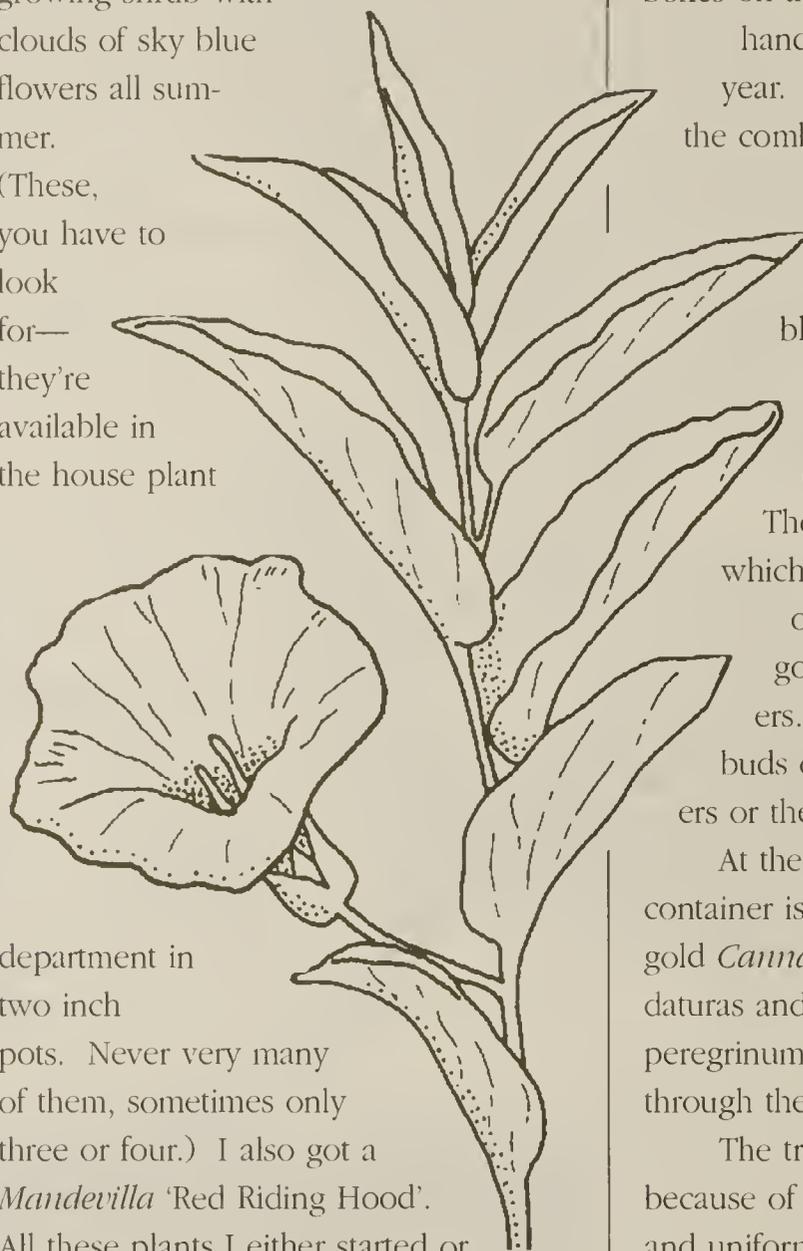
Anyway, this became the season for the Tropical Look.

From the Thompson and Morgan catalog, I ordered seed of several passion flowers, most of which germinated so that now I have five species of Passifloras in pots waiting to bloom. I also ordered seed of *Nicotiana langsdorfii* and *N. sylvestris*, as well as five kinds of daturas with their upfacing trumpets of fragrant bloom. I also ordered seed of *Tropaeolum peregrinum*, a species nasturtium with twining foliage and bright yellow flowers.

From Plant Delights Nursery, I ordered several variegated cannas including *C. 'Pretoria'* and *C. 'Stuttgart'* (very expensive but gorgeous with great splashes of pure white intermixed with green). At Molbak's in March, I gathered all the small alternantheras they had — five different kinds ranging from green and copper tones to a delightful green and white reminiscent of the *C. 'Stuttgart'* canna leaves, albeit much smaller. I also got a batch of *Iresine*

bolstii, the quick-growing foliage plant with glossy purple leaves. Then, a favorite, *Plumbago auriculata*, a fast growing shrub with clouds of sky blue flowers all summer.

(These, you have to look for — they're available in the house plant



department in two inch pots. Never very many of them, sometimes only three or four.) I also got a *Mandevilla 'Red Riding Hood'*. All these plants I either started or grew on until mid-June.

From White Flower Farm, I received three different species Brugmansias and grew them in gallon cans. A rooted cutting of another Brugmansia came from Diane Laird.

During the spring scouting expeditions, I discovered some interesting tropical plants at Wells Medina Nursery. So, I got a very large *Passiflora coccinea*, a *Canna 'Tropicanna'* (bronze and gold variegated leaves with burnt orange flowers). And I also found a *Tibouchina semidecandra*, a vigorously growing shrub with floods of purple

flowers.

In mid-June, I started combining these plants in six large rectangular boxes on the deck and in several large hand thrown pots I added this year. Now, I'm watching to see if the combinations which I've orches-

trated will measure up to the vision. A canna here is in bloom, the first

blossom of *Nicotiana sylvestris* has just opened its long narrow trumpet. Several of the daturas as close to opening.

The first brugmansia has a bud which increases in size by an inch or so each day. The plumbagos have clouds of blue flowers. As yet, though, there are no buds on the seedling passion flowers or the tibouchina.

At the moment, the most successful container is the beautiful bronze and gold *Canna 'Tropicanna'*, surrounded by daturas and *N. sylvestris* with the vining peregrinum nasturtium weaving its way through the leaves.

The tropical look is exotic but because of our indifferently hot weather and uniformly cool nights, you'll be happiest if plantings are made of mature plants in bloom or bud. Otherwise it's a vision which culminates in a few days of glorious color in late August and early September.

I'm happy, though, because unlike combinations in the ground, I can start fresh each spring to make something excitingly exotic.

But, I don't have a coleus anywhere in sight. 🌿

Ted Marston is a Northwest horticultural writer and a regular contributor to garden magazines.

Don't miss the annual NHS Fall Plant Sale

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

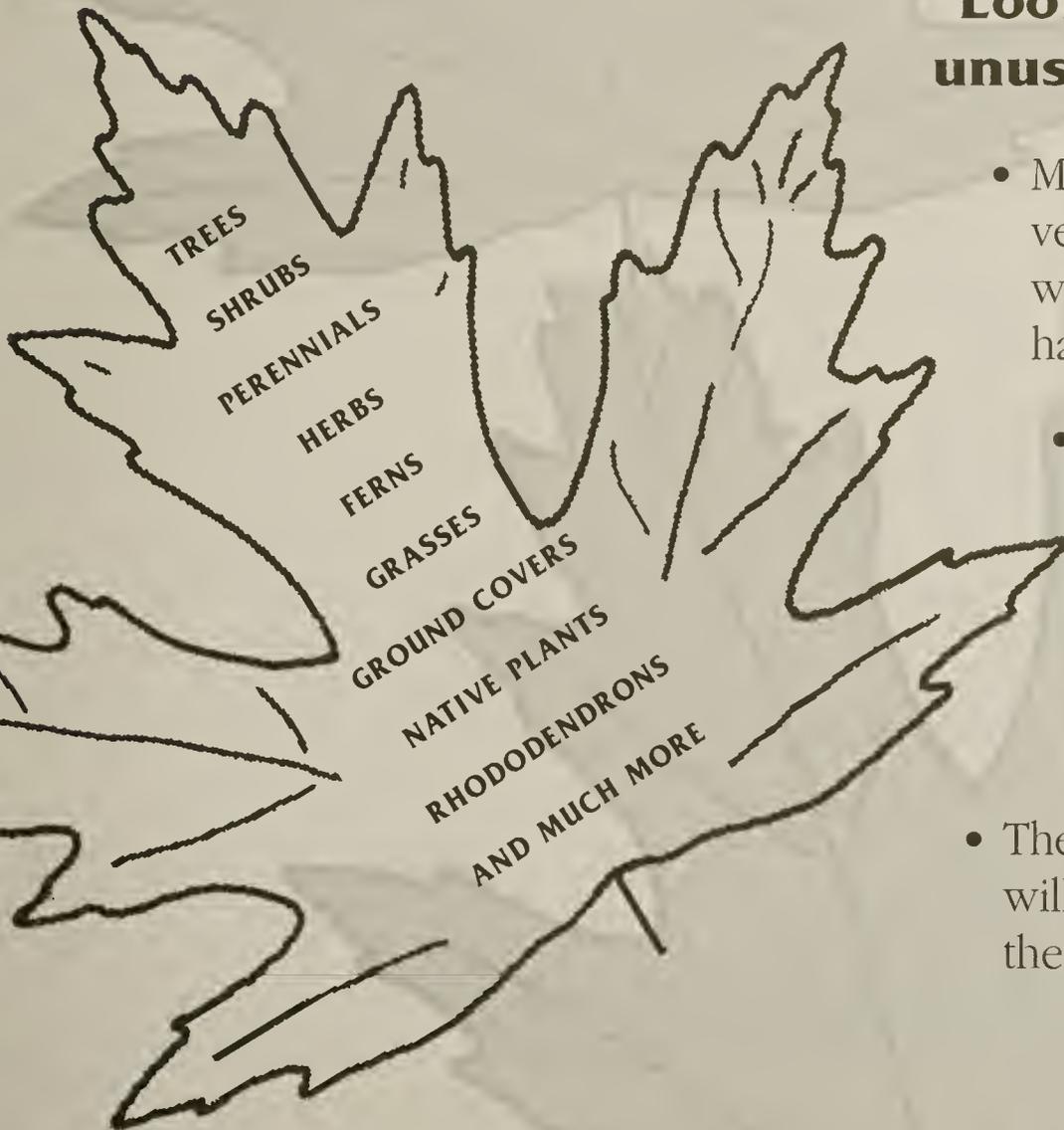
CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE — 3501 N.E. 41ST STREET, SEATTLE



Fall is the best time to plant, divide and rearrange your garden!

Looking for something unusual for your garden?

- More than 30 specialty plant vendors — and each grower will bring up to 10 rare, hard-to-find specialty plants!
- Popular garden favorites
- Advice from growers and master gardeners
- Refreshments will be sold.
- The Miller Horticultural Library will be open both days of the sale.



**Proceeds support the Elisabeth C. Miller Library,
student scholarships
and horticultural grants.**

For more information, call 206-527-1794.

President's Message

"The lure of the beauty of tropical landscapes like those found in Hawaii, Key West, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, and Bali...is undeniable; such beauty has an almost irresistible appeal for people who don't live in such places, and for most of those who do...It is the stuff dreams are made of..." Robert L. Riffle, "The Tropical Look."

I discovered tropical plants 26 years ago when my closest friend moved to Encino and left me in charge of "Plant," a huge unknown species of schefflera that threw out new growth about every 3 months in the form of a 4-foot "limb" with 10-inch leaflets. I had never seen such a plant before nor have I since, and it lived with me for nearly a decade before dying of premature "old age." At that time, my entire garden was indoors, and I had over 40 "houseplants" that were carefully tended, washed, showered and fed with the attentiveness of a gardener without a plot of ground.

During those years I remember hearing of gardeners who actually put their houseplants in the garden soil for the summer, but I dismissed the idea as impractical and asking for trouble. I had never thought of the plants as having native habitats that were more friendly than my townhouse.

Now, throughout the country in zones colder than 9 and 10 we are planting those "formerly-known-as-houseplants" outdoors to achieve the tropical look, and magazine articles on the topic abound. In the nineties, many of us who wouldn't consider having houseplants think nothing of buying a tender abutilon with the hope that it will survive to be a part of our summer gardens. And it will — if winter comes late and spring arrives early.

I remember leaving the nursery last summer with optimism and the most beautiful yellow and pink (zone 9) \$80 cordyline, a perfect 4-foot mounded fountain of straplike leaves gleaming in the sunlight...and as it bounced behind me on the blue wagon headed for the car, Ned Wells called across the parking lot, "It's an annual!" (It died...)

With this in mind...In September NHS and *Garden Notes* gives attention to the gardens and plants and books with the tropical look. If you are tempted to take the first step, we will have tropical and tropical-looking plants at our NHS Plant Sale on 9/26 & 27, and I'm certain they'll winter over nicely in your sunniest window....

Diane Laird

Diane S. Laird

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